

Henry James' Criticism.

Good people of all nationalities respect a man who takes pride in his own country. No matter how enthusiastic a partisan, we find the real dyed-in-the-wool Briton admirable in his uncompromising allegiance to the union jack and all it represents, and we like those sterling qualities of patriotism that are always in evidence. We believe in the Briton who

"In spite of all temptations
To belong to other nations,
He remains an Englishman."

But give us a namby pamby Englishman who is half sorry he isn't an American, a German or a Frenchman and we instinctively distrust him.

Practically the same view of an American is taken abroad. In spite of some aggressive national characteristics an American is respected abroad because he is an American and is proud of it. But here comes Henry James, an amorphous specimen of Anglo-American hybrid, who was born on American shores and has never ceased bewailing the fact: Mr. James is an egoist who takes every opportunity to insult his countrymen and who has voluntarily exiled himself to live in England. He has written much and is considered a rare English purist in style and diction. Recently he was invited to speak at the Bryn Mawr commencement, at which time he renewed his attacks on everything American. Speaking of English as employed in America, Mr. James said: "There are millions upon millions of homes in America in which people call themselves educated and yet talk about 'vanilla ice cream,' 'that other feller,' 'Porter Rico, dorg' and similar slovenly expressions," adding "What you young ladies should do is to imitate. Don't be afraid to imitate."

Such an adventitious affront to Americans might be passed in silence were it not backed by such apparent weight of authority. One cannot help but wonder in what homes Mr. James has been entertained in this country. It is too bad that he cannot pursue his investigations into the millions and millions of families of culture and refinement where such monstrosities of pronunciation as he mentions are never heard.

As a matter of fact, there may be millions of American homes where the words are pronounced "vanilla" and "feller," but did Mr. James ever stop to consider English as it is spoken by millions and millions of English families? Does he not know that in his adopted country a very great number of people "who call themselves educated" make use of such expressions as "It's decid'ot in Lunnon at this toim ay yahr," and pronounce clerk as though it was clark? Even such an accomplished philologist as Henry James may visit whole districts in Great Britain where he cannot understand a word of the vernacular. The whole secret of Mr. James' life and character seem to be summed up in his advice to imitate. He has apparently sought to imitate the servile ex-American snobs of London who are neither good Britons nor acceptable Americans, and even at that he is a bad imitator.

St. Louis job printers have signed an agreement to work a nine-hour day for three years. That's absurd. Who ever ever heard of a printer working nine or any other number of hours a day for three years?

Missouri claims in its zinc and lead deposits more mineral wealth than the gold deposits of California or Colorado. While \$700,000,000 worth of these materials has been taken out, it is asserted that their development has only begun.

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A Venerable Baby.

"Who is that gray headed fellow coming this way?"

"That," exclaimed the aged inhabitant, "is my baby."

"What! that old man?"

"He ain't no old man—he ain't turned sixty yet."

"And how old are you, my friend?"

"Well drawed the ancient, 'ef I live to see mashmillion time I'll be 102."

"And what's the secret of your long life?"

"There ain't no secret, stranger. I'm a livin' monument to collard greens, corn liker an' good natur'!"

A Morgan county, Indiana man while on a trip to Arkansas, accosted a middle aged woman in a rural district with the inquiry as to the political condition in her region. She didn't know what was meant. So he varied the question: "Have you any Republicans around here?" "Look here, stranger," she replied, "my old man hunts and traps all over this section and if he ever caught one he never brought the hide home!"

Quality vs. Quantity.

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Can the metropolis hold out under this strain? The city of New York spends more money every year than did the government of the United States before the civil war. The municipal budget is four times the whole cost of the State government. It amounts to over \$28 a year for every man, woman and child, or an average of \$150 for each family.

The Hyde-Alexander leeches have been forced to turn loose from the evah yeht helw no snollim elbatingE so long gorged and attended. Public opinion as voiced through an independent press has proved too much for the millionaire grafters. While the robbery of the Equitable fund has been vast, and the shock to popular confidence severe, the lesson may lead to valuable reforms. The management can restore confidence, and prosperity. But only by making a clean sweep of the old graft tools, including lawyers Untermeyer and Depew and a big cut in salaries.

The man who does not advertise will come about as near being a success in business as the dog will get the rabbit, by barking at the hole. This reminds us some dogs are too dog-gone lazy to do anything but bark, and their barking sometimes attracts others do dig the rabbit and the big-mouthed barker jumps in for a share.

It has been said, look at a man's chin for strength, at his mouth for weakness and into his pocket for honesty, but we'd rather look on the newspaper subscription book or at his grocer's ledger than into any pocket for the last named quality.

Mrs. Grouchy—I do wish that you would stop speculating on the stock exchange! It's only a game of chance. Mr. Grouchy—So is marriage. Do you want to stop being married?

"No, sir," said the practical American, "no bric-a-brac on the mantel for me. It's a nuisance. Where's a man to put his feet?"

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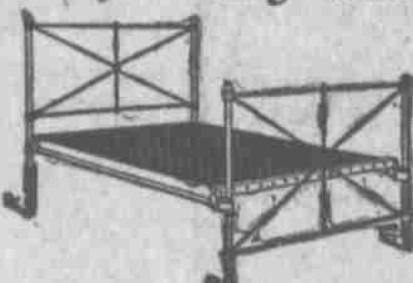
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